

Successful Place-Based Policing Strategies: Community Policing



Boston Police Department
Police Commissioner William B. Evans



Objectives

- To define community policing
- To learn how Boston Police Department (BPD) moved from reactive policing to community policing.
- To learn how Dorchester's Choice Neighborhood Public Safety Enhancement Strategies (PSES) Model was implemented in one of Boston's "hot spot" neighborhoods; and
- To learn how BPD and its partners used an evidence-based and place-based approach to reduce crime in Choice Neighborhood.

City of Boston

- With a population of 644,710, the City of Boston is the largest populated urban region in Massachusetts. The City's daytime population increases to over 1 million as a result of commuters who work and attend school here (2013 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau)
- 15% of Boston's population is 14 years of age or younger. 35% of Boston's population is between the ages of 20 and 34, making it home to the highest proportion of young adults compared to all other major cities in America. (Boston Redevelopment Authority)
- 27% of Boston's families with children under the age of 18 have incomes below the federal poverty level, and this increases to 40.5% in one-parent households. *Poverty in Boston*, Boston Redevelopment Authority, March 2014

Boston Police Department

- ◆ The BPD has nearly 2,200 sworn members and approximately 750 civilians across the city.
- ◆ Historically, the BPD has experienced many significant events. Some of the more notable ones include the police strike of 1919, the hiring of female department members in 1921, the busing riots in the early 1970s, Occupy Boston, and most recently, the Boston Marathon bombing.
- ◆ In addition to these unplanned events, the BPD continually coordinates security and police services for dignitary visits, special events, concerts, parades, and sporting events.

What is Community Policing?



Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/vets-to-cops/e030917193-CP-Defined.pdf>



How did the Boston Police Department succeed with the transition from reactive policing to community policing?



Boston Police Department's History of Community Policing

In 1994 BPD “kicked-off” community policing with a change of philosophy & mission:

The Boston Police Department is dedicated to working in partnership with the community to fight crime, reduce fear and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

Our Mission is Community Policing.

BPD's Community Policing Benchmarks

- 💧 1994 Community Policing as philosophy not a strategy or a program
- 💧 Decentralization of power to support neighborhood based District Captains playing a key role, in partnership with community leaders in reducing crime
- 💧 1996 Citywide Strategic Planning Process involving 16 neighborhood based teams, made up of a wide range of stakeholder representatives, whose job it was to create individual neighborhood CP plans of action

Continuum of Community Policing Strategies

Community Relations



**Police/
Community
Partnership
Programming**



**Police /
Research
Partnership
SMART
Policing**



**Community
Education**

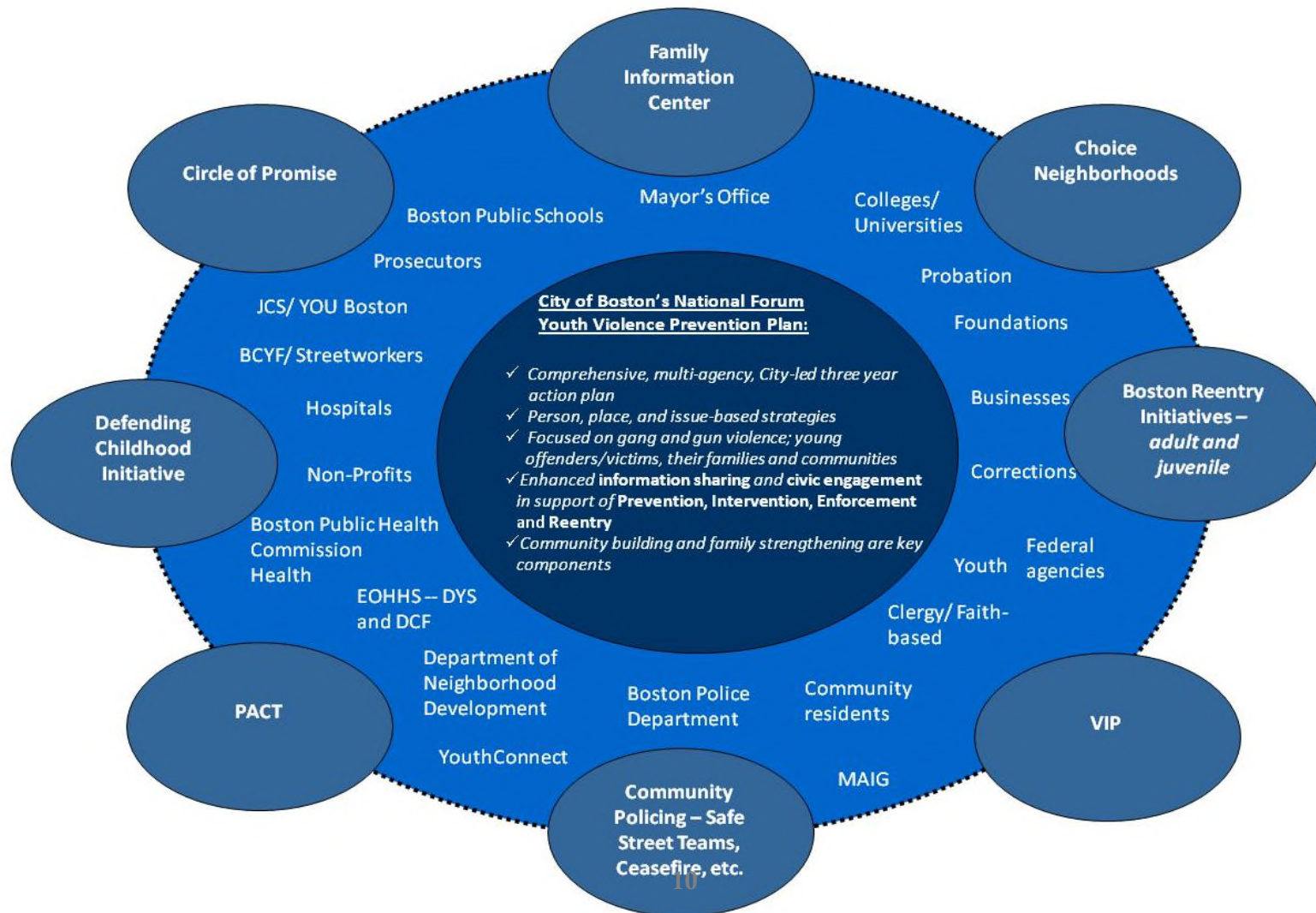


**Strategic
Planning with
Community
Stakeholders**



Training (i.e. Academy, In-service, Professional Development)

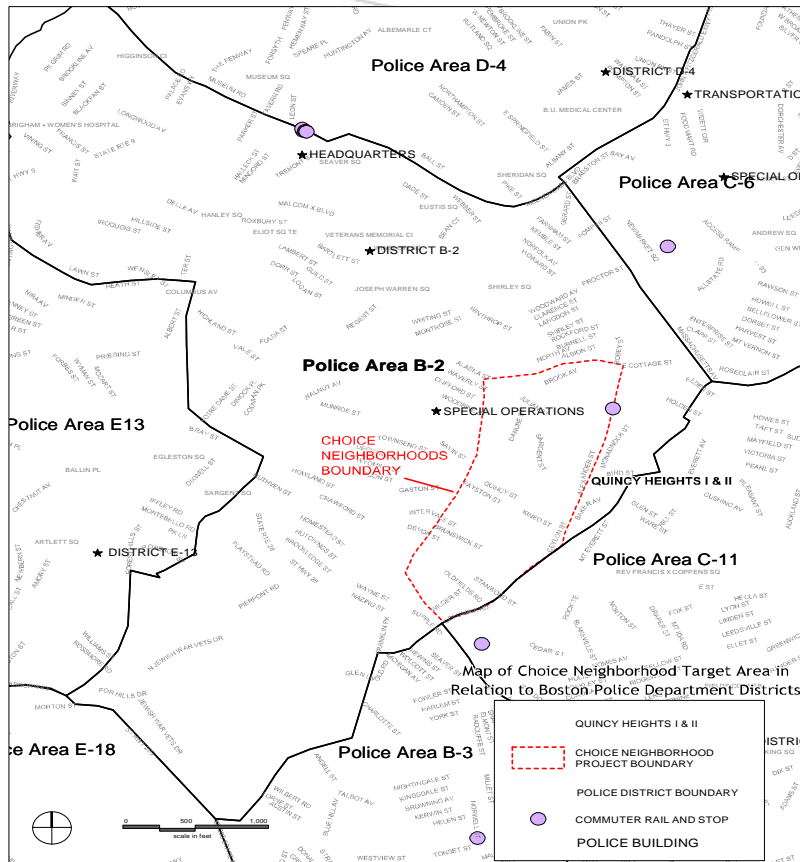
Citywide Place-Based Initiatives



Dorchester's Choice Neighborhood: A Place-Based Strategy



Dorchester's Choice Neighborhood



- Also known as the Boston's Quincy-Corridor
- Home to 8,900 residents
- 38% below the poverty line
- Over 38% of housing units (3,500) are subsidized
- Hot-spot Area

Choice Neighborhood as a Hot-Spot Area



5% of Boston's land mass accounted for 60% of the City's gun homicides and gun assault (Hot-Spot)

Boston's Choice Neighborhood is one of three hot-spot areas in the City of Boston

In 2012

Total Incidents: 1,779

Total Part One Incidents: 607

Total Violent Incidents: 205

Total Drug Incidents: 123

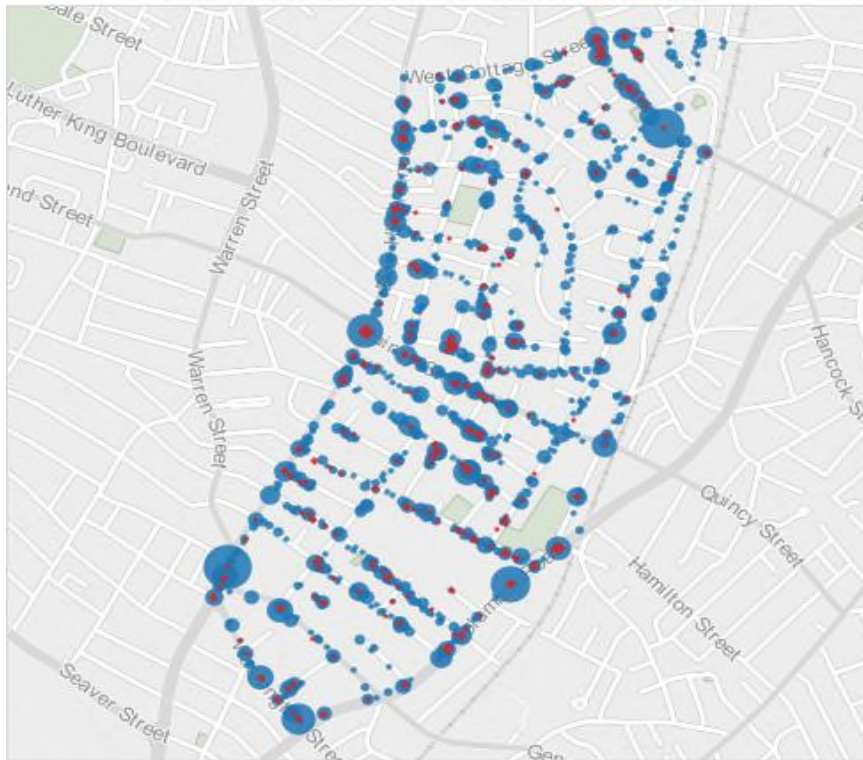
Total Shootings: 18

UCR Part 1 and 2 Crimes - Choice Neighborhood, 2013-2014

Reported Part 1 and 2 Crimes - Choice Neighborhood, 2013-2014

Violent Part 1 Crime Shown in **Red Diamonds**

Property Part 1 and Part 2 Crimes Shown in **Blue Circles**



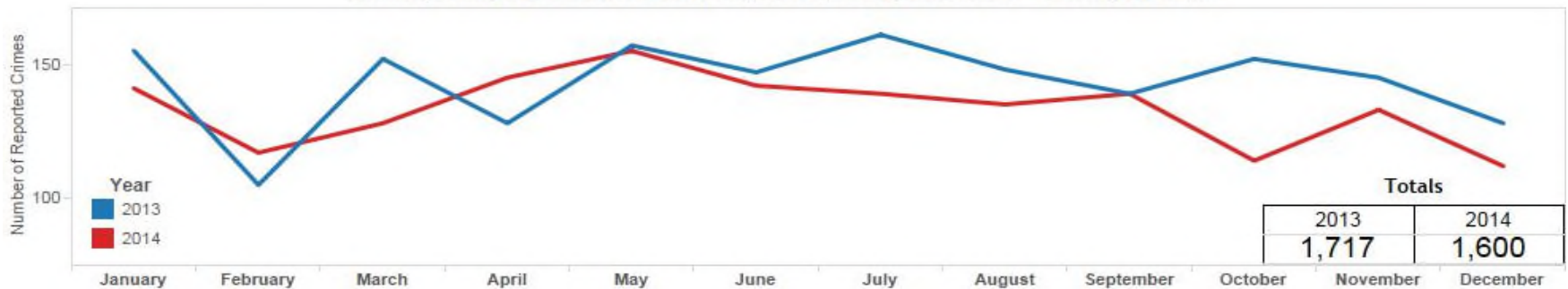
Reported Crimes - By Street

STREETNAME	
BLUE HILL AV	477
DUDLEY ST	192
QUINCY ST	160
COLUMBIA RD	158
MAGNOLIA ST	148
INTERVALE ST	133
LAWRENCE AV	126
DEVON ST	120
FAYSTON ST	113
HOWARD AV	102
STANWOOD ST	92
WASHINGTON ST	84
WAYLAND ST	73
NORMANDY ST	68
JULIAN ST	67
DACIA ST	62
CEYLON ST	57
GENEVA AV	56
ALEXANDER ST	45
BRUNSWICK ST	45
W COTTAGE ST	41
HARTFORD ST	39
BROOK AV	38
CUNNINGHAM ST	37



Change in Reported Violent UCR Part 1 Crimes - By Street

STREETNAME	2014
DUDLEY ST	9
LEYLAND ST	6
COLUMBIA RD	5
CEYLON ST	4
GENEVA AV	3
MAGNOLIA ST	0
WOODLEDGE ST	0
BLUE HILL AV	-1
DACIA ST	-3
WAYLAND ST	-3
WASHINGTON ST	-3
QUINCY ST	-4
NORMANDY ST	-4

All Reported Part 1 and 2 Crimes, Choice Neighborhood - Year over Year



Choice Neighborhood
January 1st - December 31st

	<u>% Chg '12/'15</u>
 Violent Crime*	-10.2%
Property Crime**	-22.64%
Homicide	200.00%
Rape & Attempted	80.0%
Robbery & Attempted	-1.9%
Aggravated Assault	-17.9%
Burglary	-22.1%
Larceny & Attempted	-18.3%
Vehicle Theft & Attempted	-40.9%
Total Part I	-18.5%
Other Assaults	-30.5%
Vandalism	28.8%
Weapons Violation	22.2%
Prostitution	-100.0%
 Drugs	-43.1%
DWI	-12.5%
Disorderly Conduct	-41.2%
Other Part II	-3.4%
Total Part II	-15.3%
Grand Total 15	-16.4%

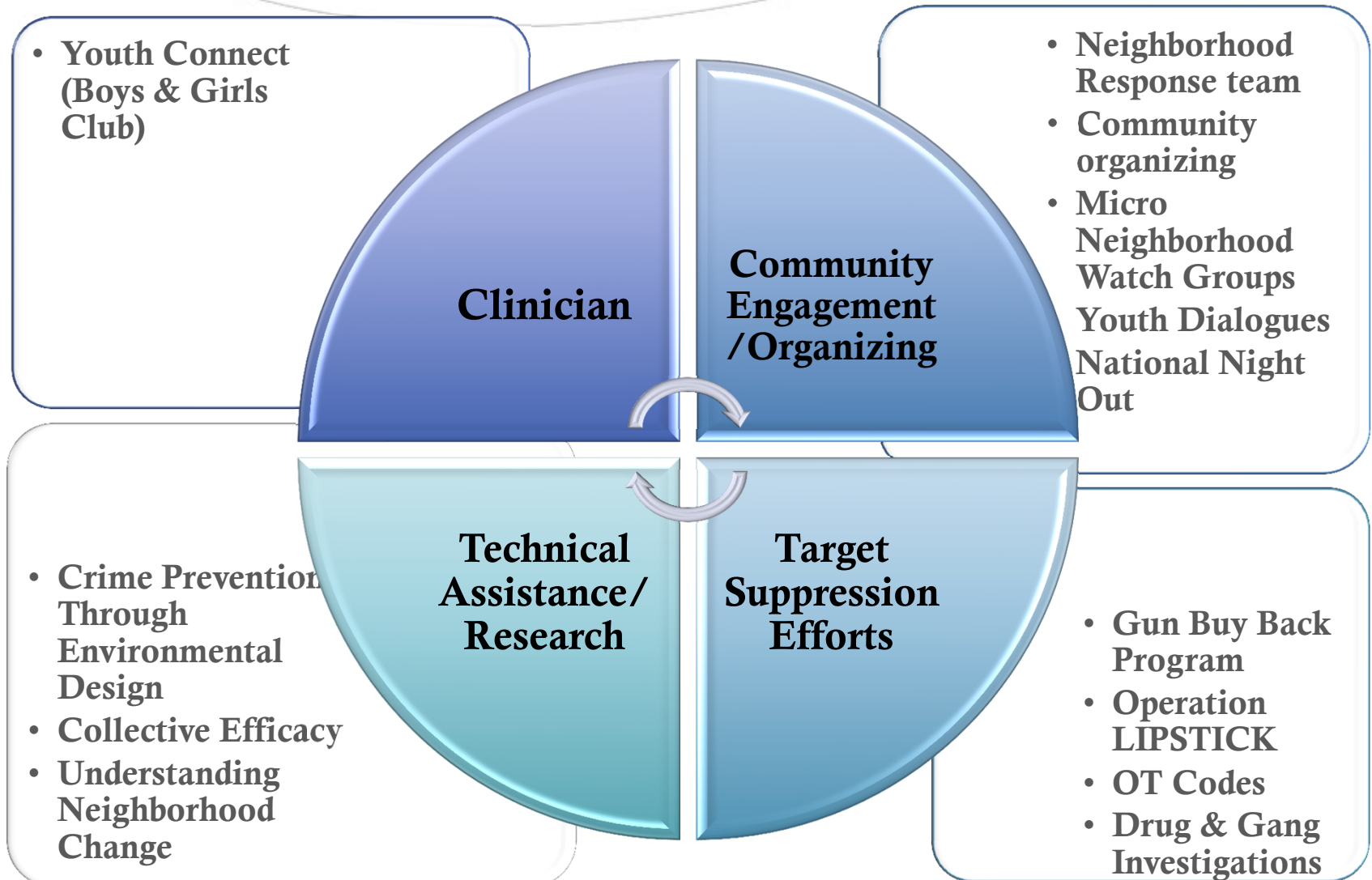
Choice Neighborhood's Public Safety Enhancement Strategy

Goals

1. Support evidence-based strategies designed to reduce violent crime and illegal drug activity
2. Increase the use of place-based, evidence-based strategies to stabilize neighborhood.



Choice PSES Core Components



Community Engagement/ Organizing



- Community Service Officer
*“Policing in the way
community wants you to police”*
- 122 meetings a month
- 6 CSO's

How does BPD engage residents?

- Community Events
- Neighborhood Response Team and other community Meetings
- Micro Neighborhood Watch Groups
- Welcoming Choice Residents back into new residence.

B2 Fun Command Center

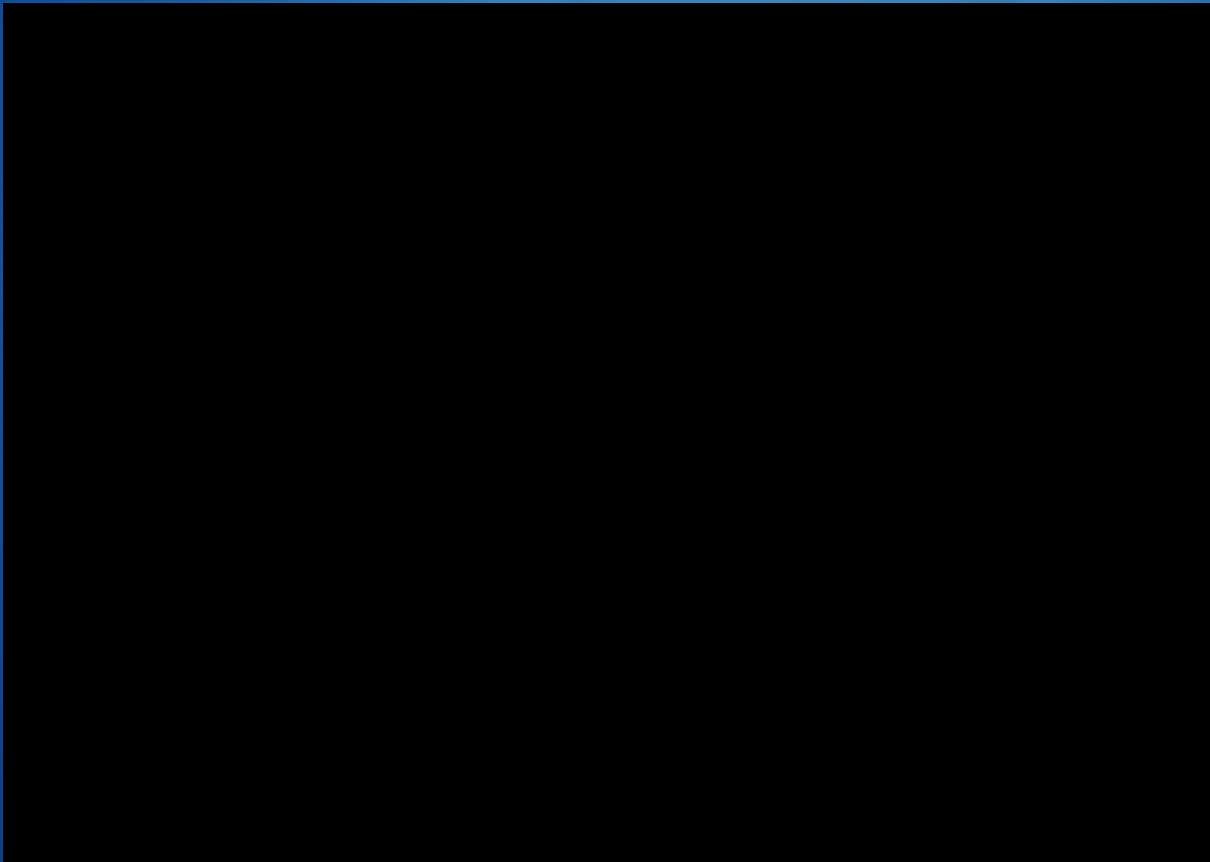
“Best Practice in Community Policing”

President Obama Summer of 2015



- 92 Events Summer of 2015
- Every Friday Night in Choice Neighborhood (Summer Months)
- PowerPoint of Crime Watch specific to that geographical location,
- Educating residents on “resources” for seniors, adults, job training, resources for kids etc
- 22,200 cups of ice cream
- 5,500 hot dogs
- 2,300 bags of potato chips
- Countless bottles of water.
- A way to increase collective efficacy

Residents' Voice



Target Suppression Efforts



- ◆ Support effective prevention and intervention efforts focused on mitigating the factors influencing involvement in criminal activity.
- ◆ Promote collaborative efforts in neighborhood restoration and economic development initiatives.
- ◆ Support community based public safety initiatives to build neighborhood support and mobilize efforts against crime.

Target Suppression Efforts



- Gun Buy Back Program
- Operation LIPSTICK
- High Visibility / Walking Beats
- Drug & Gang Investigations
- SSYI /PACT
- Intelligence Led Policing
- Feedback from community.

Clinician/ Case Manager

YouthConnect places social workers in our district stationhouses and specialized units to work with at-risk youth and their families. Participants also work with the Youth Violence Strike Force and the School Police Unit.

- Opportunity to enable every police officer regardless of role to participate in community policing efforts
- Police referral to on-site District-based Clinician
- Since 2013 the Choice funded Clinician has Served over 200 youth and families
- Work with youth and their families to set goals

Technical Assistance



Boston choose to Test Pilot 2 Emerging Community Policing strategies in the Choice Target Neighborhood:

- CPTED – DanO’Neil
- Collective Efficacy – Robert Sampson

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)



CPTED Strategies:

- Natural Surveillance
- Lighting
- Territorial Reinforcements
- Maintenance and Management
- Natural Access Control

CPTED

Recommendations

Quincy Street Reconstruction

- Lighting
- Surveillance Cameras
- Pedestrian Safety
- Additional Parking

Woodledge Avenue Neighborhood Improvements

- Recreational park
- Neighborhood Code Enforcement
- Cunningham One Way Street

Other Recommendations

- Building Façade Covers
- Problem Property Ordinance
- CPTED Guidelines



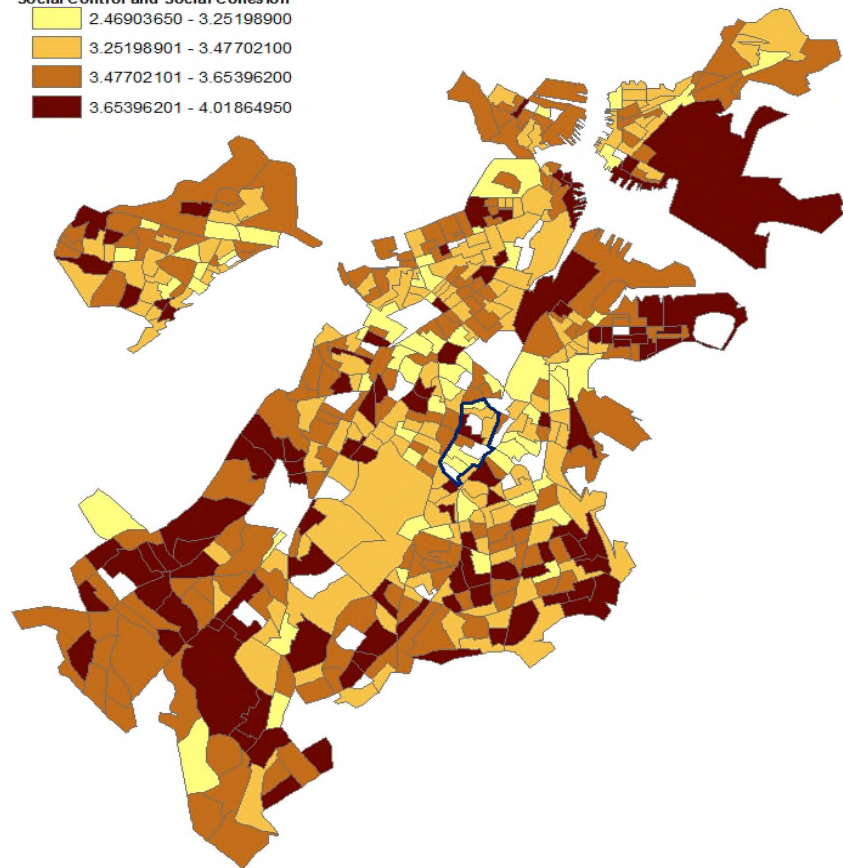
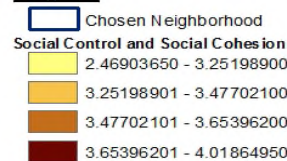
Technical Assistance

Collective efficacy is defined as the process of activating or converting social ties among neighborhood residents in order to achieve collective goals, such as public order or the control of crime (Sampson, 2006)

- 💧 *It takes a village to raise a child*
- 💧 *Common beliefs regarding human behavior*

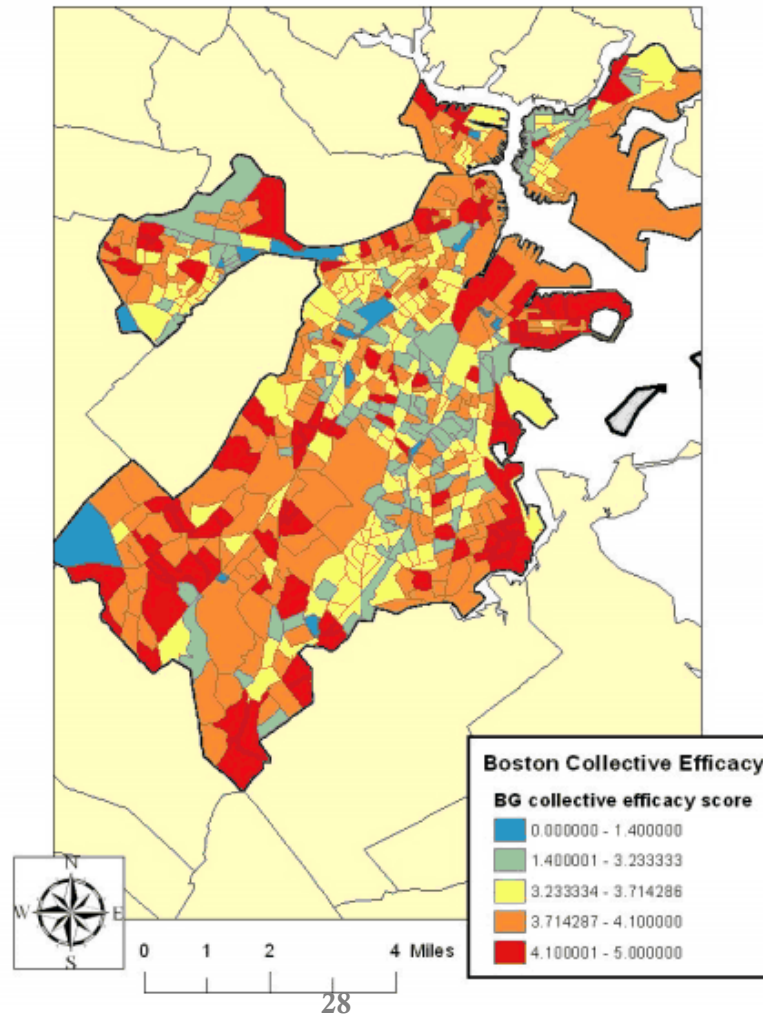
Social Control and Social Cohesion

Legend



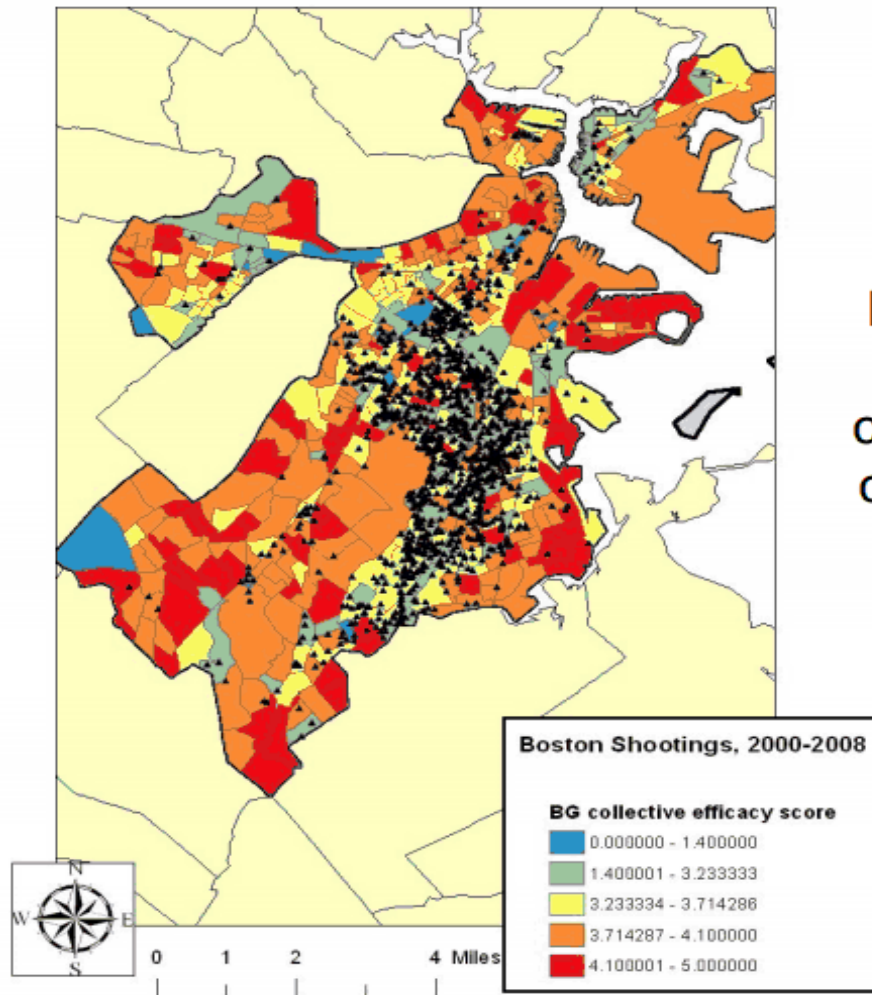
Data from 2010 Boston Neighborhood Survey, using 2000 Census Block Groups

Collective Efficacy in Boston



Source: Hureau , 2011

Strong Link to Shootings



Relationship
holds after
controlling for
concentrated
poverty

Source: Hureau, 2011

Choice PSES Success

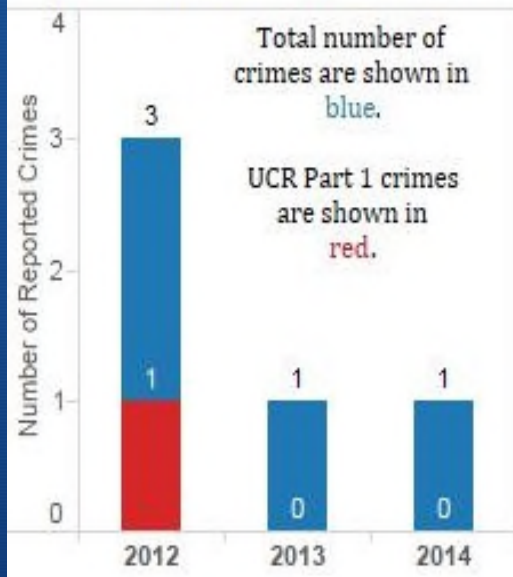
- 10% Decrease in Violent Crime
- 18.5% decrease in Total Part 1 Crimes
- 16.4% decrease in Total Crimes
- 73% felt safe in neighborhood
- Strengthened Partnerships with CBO's and residents.
- Building Residents' and CBOs' capacity. (Love Your Block)
- #1 in the City for both 911 calls and Priority Calls for the year



Choice PSES Success (cont'd)



**Total Reported Crime, 2012-2014
Intersection, Quincy and Magnolia**



- Institutionalization of the B2 Family Fun Center
- Over 100 youth worked with YouthConnect Clinician to complete a goal.
- Decrease in calls for Housing Issues (2012-15)
- Decrease in calls for Public Social Disorder (2014)
- Decrease in calls for Alcohol (2013)
- Decrease in calls for Trash (2013)

Q & A

